



TESTIMONY
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Friday, February 26, 2016

H.B. No. 5047AN ACT CONCERNING EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE PROPERTY TAX

Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS)-- Connecticut's 3rd largest employer with over 20,000 employees and 6300 medical staff appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony concerning ***H.B. No. 5047AN ACT CONCERNING EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE PROPERTY TAX***

Relative to HB 5047, YNHHS joins with all CT hospitals in opposing sections 2 and 3. We oppose the new and onerous filing requirement that specifically targets hospitals. HB 5047 would create a substantial risk to hospitals of losing their tax exempt status for real and personal property for failing to file, as would be required by this proposal.

The Yale New Haven Health System, through Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, including the North East Medical Group, strives to provide access to high-quality, patient-centered care in collaboration with others who share our values. We offer our patients a range of healthcare services, from primary care to the most complex care available anywhere in the world. Inside Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, we care for more children than any other provider in the state. 55% of our kids are insured by Medicaid. We care for our State's most vulnerable population, by providing psychiatric care to children, young adults, adults and the elderly who come to us from every corner of Connecticut. The majority of these patients are insured by Medicaid.

The 3 YNHHS hospital affiliates care for more than one quarter of the State's Medicaid enrollees. Every day, our staff cares for individuals and families who lack access to medical, dental and mental health care. Our emergency departments are filled with individuals who do not have anywhere else to go for medical or mental health care. Last year, we provided thousands of psychiatric assessments to children in our emergency departments a fraction of whom required inpatient acute psychiatric care.

YNHHS hospitals already bear a substantial tax burden and will pay nearly \$200 million in taxes this year. The hospital tax has become the fourth largest source of state tax revenue. As we navigate this additional financial burden, together with increased state regulation and decreased Medicaid reimbursement, we simply cannot risk additional tax liability.

The current declaration form is 8 pages and includes fifteen categories of personal property and would require intensive human resources to complete, resources that should be invested in patient safety initiatives and ensuring access to quality care. YNHHS hospitals receive 500 transfers each month from other hospitals that cannot provide care needed by their patients. We are a statewide resource and have been challenged by the State's need to balance its budget with health care dollars.

The new filing and declaration requirement applies only to hospitals. While we understand the State's fiscal challenges, we ask that you do not impose new and onerous administrative burdens with financial penalties on hospitals. Our patients, staff and communities rely heavily on us and we are relying on you to oppose HB 5047, sections 2 and 3. Together with our patients and over 20,000 employees, we thank you for your consideration and support.